



The Maeve Anne barge arriving in Yamba in April 2017

New Grafton bridge - Maritime Factsheet

Building activity on the Clarence River 2017 – 2019
May 2017

The NSW Government is funding the new \$240 million Grafton bridge which is being built 70 metres downstream from the existing road and rail bridge. As part of the work, there will be building activities in the Clarence River. This fact sheet explains the timing of the work and how it may affect river users.

Design

The new road bridge over the Clarence River will be located 70 metres downstream of the existing road and rail bridge.

The 525 metre-long bridge will have a navigation clearance height of 9.1 metres. It will consist of nine spans between 29 and 74 metres, which will align with the existing bridge piers to allow ease of navigation.

When complete, the bridge will carry single lane traffic in both directions separated by a central median barrier and pedestrian and bike lanes.

Timing

Marine work will start in May 2017, weather permitting. Work will start on a 50 metre-long temporary jetty on the south side of the Clarence River to enable the loading of bridge components and the transfer of workers between the southern shoreline and work areas on the Clarence River.

A river barge will travel up the Clarence River and start operating in May 2017. Marine and land piling is scheduled to start once the barge arrives. Marine pier construction will start once piling is complete. The first segment lift from the river barge is expected in October 2017, weather permitting.

Navigation changes

Navigation changes will include a temporary 45 metre exclusion zone around the temporary jetty and barge. This will only be in place while the jetty is being built.

There will be some changes to navigation channels and exclusion zones during the project as work progresses from the southern Clarence River foreshore to the north across the river. These changes will be advised through Marine Notices, updates to the project website and notifications from the project team.

Impact on river users

Marine access will be maintained in the river, with some restrictions on river users.

These include:

- speed restrictions near the building area
- the partial closure of the river with a navigable channel maintained at all times
- exclusion zones around the temporary jetty, barge and constructed piers at various times throughout the project.

The restrictions are to ensure the safety of river users and workers, and will be in place while the bridge is being built.

How the new bridge will be built

The new Grafton bridge will be built using a crane operating from a barge stationed in the river. A temporary jetty will be built on the southern side of the Clarence River and will be used to prepare and load materials and workers onto the barge. Construction activity will include drilling, piling, pier construction, placement of concrete beams and finishing works. A video showing the construction stages can be viewed at rms.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge.

Impact on flooding during construction

A detailed hydrological assessment has been completed for building the new bridge. The study modelled the impact of the work in the event of a one in 20, 50 and 100 year flood event. As the levee work will be largely complete prior to construction of the bridge, any upstream impact due to the bridge construction will be balanced by the levee work. Overall the study, based on historical records and survey data, found no measurable flood impact to properties during construction.

In the event of a flood the building equipment will be moved to higher ground, marine vessels secured and staff evacuated until the flood waters pass.

Figure 1 Work location and direction of work



Figure 2 Navigation map during work on the new Grafton bridge



Artist's impression of the new Grafton bridge alongside the existing bridge

Frequently asked questions

Are there any environmental impacts on the river from the building work?

A detailed environmental management plan has been developed for all work in the river. The plan outlines the controls that will be implemented to minimise the environmental impact from the work. Controls will include:

- use of floating barriers around all work areas to contain potential spills
- installation of a physical barrier on the barge to contain construction water and materials
- ongoing monitoring of controls and water quality which ensure measures are adequate and effective.

Can we still fish around the existing Grafton Bridge?

During construction a 200 metre transit zone will be in place both upstream and downstream of the existing bridge. This means there will be some restrictions around the current bridge, including speed limits and access and restricting fishing in the area. Alipou Creek will still be accessible. Once the new bridge is open you will be able to fish around both bridges.



The existing Grafton Bridge

Will there be a permanent speed limit on the river after the new bridge is built?

The speed limit on the river while the new bridge is being built will be four knots. Exceptions will be made for special events, such as the Bridge to Bridge ski race. Further consultation will be carried out by Roads and Maritime regarding the permanent speed limit on the river after the new bridge is built.

How will we know about any changes to river usage?

We will provide updates as changes occur. These will take the form of community notifications, Marine Notices, emails to our database and website updates. Visit the project website or contact the community relations team for further information.

Will there be exclusion zones around the bridge once it is completed and open?

No.

Where do I find out more information?

For more information about the project, please contact us:

☎ 1800 918 759 (toll free)

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✉ PO Box 546 Grafton, NSW 2460

🖱 rms.nsw.gov.au/graftonbridge

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